

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims:

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method for the analysis of liquids by means of X-ray spectrometry comprising,

introducing a liquid sample into a sample container comprising a container wall which leaves open an opening at a top;

positioning the sample container in a sample holder;

providing a cover which is smaller than the opening and freely movable relative to the container walls on a free surface of the liquid sample; and

analyzing the liquid sample.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the sample container is for the X-ray analysis of liquids, which container comprises a container wall which forms a cavity for receiving a liquid sample, the container wall being constructed so as to be at least locally transparent to X-rays and leaving open an opening at the top, and cover which is configured for arrangement on the free surface of the liquid sample and is not rigidly connected to the container wall.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the cover has a diameter slightly smaller than the container opening and is freely movable relative to the container wall.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the cover has a diameter slightly smaller than the container opening and is freely movable relative to the container wall.

12. (New) A sample container for the X-ray analysis of liquids, which container comprises:
a container wall which defines a cavity, the container wall being constructed so as to be at least locally transparent to X-rays and having an opening at a top of said container;
said container for storing a liquid sample in the cavity, said sample having a free surface below the container wall; and
a cover which is arranged to extend across a free surface of the liquid sample and to be in contact with the free surface of the liquid sample and not rigidly connected to the container wall to be freely movable with respect to the container wall.